

## Transcription: Doyle Stout

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*Today is Friday, January 28, 2011. My name is James Crabtree, and today I'll be interviewing Mr. Doyle Stout. I'm at the Stephen F. Austin Building in Austin, Texas, and Mr. Stout is at his residence in the Philippines. This interview is being conducted in support of the Texas Veterans Land Board Voices of Veterans Oral History Program. Sir, again, thank you very much for taking the time out of your schedule to talk with us. It's an honor for us, and I guess we always usually start off with these interviews asking just to tell us a little bit about how you came to become a veteran, how you ended up going in the Marine Corps.*

**Doyle Stout:** OK, thank you James. It's indeed a pleasure to be able to have the interview with you, and I'd be happy to share that with you. I was going to school as you might recall, I was playing baseball and I was trying to go to school and I went to the university and went in to get a bachelors degree and a masters degree and was in graduate school at University of Wisconsin when I got the draft notice that said Mr. Doyle, you're gonna have to do something. My favorite guy was the Marine recruiter, and I'm not from a military family, and he convinced me that I should go to the Marines and with that good looking uniform and so forth, I did. I went into the Marines. I went and took the examination for flight school, passed it, but decided that I really didn't want to sit around and look at dolls all my life, so I decided just to go in. And I did that in 1957.

*1957. So that was I guess kind of considered part of the peace time draft, was that the way it worked at that time?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, I think it was probably right at the end of the draft. I don't really know how many years longer that they had it, but they had deferred me two or three times and I said fine. So I decided to go into the Marines and I did through the OCS program, the Officers Candidate Program at Quantico, which was a three-month program and then from that I came home as a young second lieutenant to my son Doyle Jr. who is the one who wrote the book on the baseball.

*I think we should probably start, we always start with the veterans part, but I want to talk, too, about this book and that's how I found you is your son has written a new book about the Alpine Cowboys, minor league and semi-pro baseball team that I remember reading about when I was 13 years old. There was an article in Sports Illustrated which was fascinating about this ball park and this rancher that developed this stadium and this team and your son has written this story about the ball club but also about you, and I guess maybe you should tell us, sir, a little bit about your childhood and playing baseball and how ultimately that all led up to the Marine Corps and where you are today.*

**Doyle Stout:** OK, I'd be happy to do some of that. My background was my father was a minister. He was Pentecostal preacher, so I spent a lot of time in churches, on the back benches and so forth, but at the age of 12 I started playing baseball and played initially with the Salvation Army and I played all the time. Everything that had a ball with it I would chase it, whether it was a basketball, football, or otherwise. I played that all the way through and at the end of high school, when I got into high school I played with a team that didn't have a whole lot, but we had a lot of guts and we did pretty well. Two of the three years I was there, we won the city championship and the final year -

*And you grew up in the Oak Cliff part of Dallas?*

**Doyle Stout:** No, I was actually downtown Dallas, Krosier Tech, and I went to that school because my brother had gone to it and it was a dumb thing on my part from the standpoint the school was really right in the middle of town if you can imagine. But it turned out very well. My senior year in high school we made the state finals and we had the 4A class finals in Austin, and we had won. In Austin we had won something like 13 to 15 straight games, and I had a very good record and a very good year. I was a pitcher, a left-handed pitcher, and in the state finals I set the record in Texas for strikeouts, for 21 strikeouts in a game that was at 9 innings.

*Did you realize how many strikeouts you had during the course of the game or was it something they told you about afterwards?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, I did, and actually I didn't know whether I was getting a whole lot better or whether the people that we were playing couldn't see. But anyhow, that led to the gentleman in the stand was the owner of this baseball field and he had a semi-pro team in Alpine, Texas, and after that game, he asked me if I would travel to Alpine and play for him in the summers, and I did, and that led to not only that but also to a full baseball scholarship, and that paid my way through school and even through some of graduate school.

*I know in the book it sounds like at that time you had no idea where Alpine, Texas was. Is that right?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, I was born and raised in Dallas actually, and my father being a minister, he didn't travel a whole lot, so I really had not been very far from home, so even today my son and I recently traveled to Alpine and I said holy mackerel, from Austin actually, and I said wow, you forget.

*It's a long ways.*

**Doyle Stout:** You forget how far you can see in West Texas.

*That's right. And I know, too, in the book your son wrote that your father wasn't really all that supportive of you playing baseball and it sounded like it was kind of something you did on your own. Maybe tell us a little bit about that.*

**Doyle Stout:** Well, I guess it was maybe an escape mechanism. My father was a born again Christian. He had had a pretty tough young life I guess, and his father died when he was 3, mother died when he was 13, and he sort of was taking care of the family and when he got the religion, his entire life and my family life totally evolved around that, and there's nothing wrong with that other than as a young boy, young son, you want to do something else, and my outlet was baseball. They allowed me to play, but they were not that supportive of it, but they also did not deny it of me. So I really have no complaints on that.

*What did they think when you were 18 years old and you tell them you're going to go out to far West Texas to play semi-pro ball? What was their take on that?*

**Doyle Stout:** My father was pretty good about it and he said, fine, what you want to do, go ahead, and so I did. They didn't see me off or anything else. They just wished me well and I went out and got in my coach's car and we drove 500 miles or however far Alpine was.

*Tell us because I think this is kind of a unique thing and I think a lot of people aren't familiar with the story of Mr. Kokernot and his field and that team, and I was delighted to see your son write that book because I had known about that story and as a kid I had a chance to go out there and see that field, but tell us a little bit about Herbert Kokernot and that team and that town and kind of what a special place it was at that time.*

**Doyle Stout:** OK, well Herbert Kokernot is the son, he's Herbert Kokernot Jr. and he's the son of the senior who back during the Depression loaned a lot of the ranchers around there money, and when they couldn't pay, he foreclosed on 'em. He was a very kind gentleman, but to make a long story short, he ends up with about 300,000 acres of land, sections of land, which is bigger than some countries or just about. But Herbert Kokernot was not the same kind of rancher. He loved baseball, loved sports, loved a lot of other different things, and he decided that he played third base I think when he was younger in his life, so he put money into a field and his father commented that if you're going to do something on the 06 Ranch property, do it right. So he spent a million, million and a half dollars building a ball park that is just unbelievably beautiful and considered by many probably the best ball park in the world for that size. And the ball park was set up I think in about 1946 or '47, and he brought in his teams and he had this desire to be a winner. So he brought in people, professionals as well as university players and I was one of the ones that he brought in right out of high school. So that worked out very well. It's a wonderful park. He eventually put lights on it. The interesting part about it is though that it's in a community of only 5,000 to 6,000 people, and in that part of the world, there are not a lot of little towns that are very close by. So whenever we had a baseball game, the entire town would just close shop – all the buildings, the banks, everybody would close, and everybody would go to the baseball game, and when the game was over, they would go back and open it up. Once a year, he would have a big BBQ and he would invite the entire city if you can imagine out to a Baptist encampment and he would have his cowboys bring in a bunch of cattle and he would have a BBQ and the ball players would be the ones that would wait on the tables if you will. Not necessarily wait on the tables, but at least be there and meet the people. So it was a fantastic opportunity and one that just fell in my lap and it made the difference in my life, that's for sure.

*When you were on your way out there to Alpine, did you have any idea of what that was going to be like? Had you been told about the stadium?*

**Doyle Stout:** No, to make that one even better, James, when I was in high school, the team in Dallas, they didn't even have proper baseball uniforms. They had softball uniforms. They didn't provide gloves, they didn't provide shoes, they didn't provide anything. It's just the thing, in fact they didn't even have a ball park. We had to travel by bus or walk or run to the ball park which was a couple of miles away. So I really had never seen other than what you might find in Dallas, and they have some pretty nice ball parks there, and we played, but I really had no idea where Alpine was and I had no idea what semi-pro ball was all about, and I had absolutely no idea about what such a nice stadium would look like, and the really good part of it was that when I finally got to where I was going and they issued me two pinstripe, Yankee type uniforms, and a brand new glove and brand new shoes and being a pitcher, I got an extra jacket, I mean I felt like I'd died and gone to heaven or something.

*That's amazing. And so how many years did you spend playing ball for the Cowboys?*

**Doyle Stout:** I stayed there for about four years I think playing with them and when I went into the service, I also, I played baseball in the Marines.

*In Alpine, you went to college at Saul Ross, is that right?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yes.

*And that was something that -*

**Doyle Stout:** Part of the deal with Mr. Kokernot was that he wanted me to play with him every summer, and if I would do that, then he would give me a full scholarship through Saul Ross. And so I was one of the first ones that he put onto that, and by the time that I finished up, we were winning just about everything you could win, and so the better players on the Saul Ross team, the coach of the Alpine Cowboy team would select a bunch of those and they would also be playing on the Cowboy team.

*Well that's great, that really is spectacular. So you were out there for four years and you graduated from Saul Ross, and then, and I want to come back to the baseball stuff at some point, too, because I've got more questions on that, at that point though when you graduate from Saul Ross, where do you plan on going to next? I know you said you were in Wisconsin at grad school?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, I was going to graduate school and I'd just gotten in to it when I got the notification, and even though I tried to get another year or two out of it, it didn't work and I said you know, they've really been pretty good to me, so I went directly into the Marines. I spent one summer as a national park ranger at the Big Bend Park, so when I received my Masters degree, I spent the next summer doing that kind of business. Then on the way to Wisconsin, I got the order and then I joined the Marines and pretty quickly went into OCS I think in September of '57, graduated in December of '57.

*Tell us about your memory of arriving in Quantico and what Officer Candidate School was like then.*

**Doyle Stout:** Well again, not being from a military family, I really didn't have any idea of what I was getting in for, and all I can remember is because I played baseball and I've never smoked and things like that, so I was in very good shape and I kept my hair cut short even in those days, but when I got to Quantico, all of a sudden we had all these doggone DI's yelling at everybody and making 'em drop down pushups and running around, and I said what in the world am I getting involved in? But it worked out fine.

*And you went through in the fall and into the winter time, and then when you graduated you were commissioned as a second lieutenant. Did you go then eventually to the basic school? Did they have the basic school?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, just directly, and when I went to basic school is when they had at Quantico they had moved it from one location out to the new Barrett Hall which was, so we were one of the first groups going through that. So I spent my time in basic school and while I was in basic school, I was married when I was in school. When I graduated and got into the Masters program, I got married and my wife was pregnant, and Doyle Junior, DJ was the one born Christmas Eve if you will, so I had come back from basic school just in time to be able to witness his birth, and he was born in Alpine, Texas. And that's one of the reasons that he had a real interest in the book anyhow.

*Yes sir, had the connection, and then I guess you moved your family to Quantico while you were going through the basic school?*

**Doyle Stout:** I did, and a very interesting story on that since you have veterans listening, but I'd decided that I'd had wonderful fun in baseball but that I was with a new baby and going to basic school that I would not play sports, and the basic school then made a big deal about if you play sports, we expect you to play. So I refused to play baseball, and next thing I knew I was talking to General Krulak, Brute Krulak, who was in at Quantico and he called me in and we became immediate friends, and he told me in no uncertain terms, he said I've read your record and he said we have a baseball team here, and we want the baseball team to win, and we want people who have the talent, and he said you don't have a choice.

*That's pretty intimidating coming from Krulak.*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, he just laid it out, and one of my captains at basic school that was out at their unit was there shaking his said, yeah, like I told you. And I did, and so I played at Quantico for two years. We had very good teams. Then when General Krulak when to San Diego to recruit depot, he took me with him, and he took me with him because he wanted me to help to coach the baseball team at San Diego and play, and I did. So I played at San Diego. We had, again, in those days you still had the draft, so San Diego we had over a 100-game season, and I won 30 games one year because everybody we played, you know, I didn't have to be that good because the batter would be good enough to slow whatever is needed. But most of our ball players were professional baseball players.

*Who would you play against?*

**Doyle Stout:** Just about everyone. We played the Los Angeles Dodgers about 6 or 8 times, especially in spring training. We played most all of the really good universities on the west coast, and as you know, they have some fantastic baseball teams. They play it year round. And then one of the seasons we had a team in Las Vegas was folding, and I went to General Krulak and he allowed us to take the place of the professional team, and we almost won the league. So we were traveling back and forth. But when I finished playing at San Diego, I was trying to go back to graduate school and then when I decided that I didn't want to do that, I stayed with the Marines and was then assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Division down at Camp Pendleton. I was an infantry officer in the Marines by choice, with the intelligence background and the systems background. So I spent a lot of my career in the Marines. I spent 9 years with the Air Force building systems for both the Marine air and ground systems, and in charge of some very, very big programs that Wright Patterson up in the Boston area also, and a couple of other different places, some time with the state departments. I spent a lot of time doing systems, and was the special assistant to General Barrow when he was in Washington and at the time that he was a three star and then made commandant, and I had most of the systems that were outside the Marines or that the Marines were participating in that were being done by another service. I handled most of those for the Marines also.

*And how long did you stay in for, sir? You made a career out of the Marine Corps, right?*

**Doyle Stout:** I did. I stayed I think 21 years, 22 years.

*Yes sir, and did you get out, what was your rank when you got out?*

**Doyle Stout:** I was a lieutenant colonel.

*Yes sir, got out as a lieutenant colonel.*

**Doyle Stout:** About ready to turn colonel, but again, I'd been in the system business so I decided in the first year that I retired, I'd quadruple my pay. I guess all military people would understand that.

*Sure, sure. I think pay has gotten better over the years, but it's yeah, I understand. Well let me ask you sir, going back to the baseball thing really quick, when you were playing baseball in the Marine Corps, I guess because General Krulak wanted you to play ball, that kind of superseded anything that your boss might have said. What would your daily duties be there at the recruit depot when you were playing ball? Did you have certain hours you had to keep at the depot and that sort of thing?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah I did, in fact for a while I worked as a special assistant to General Krulak. My degrees as a systems analyst and this was after they had the big problem in South Carolina at the recruit depot -

*Ruben Creek?*

**Doyle Stout:** And they wanted, yeah, they wanted to turn that around, so he asked me to measure everything that could be measured. So I spent a lot of time working directly for him in an office next to his where I could tell him exactly how many people were going to be able to shoot well and not shoot well, where they came from. We could then predict that the training we were doing there needed to be changed because we treated someone from New York City the same way we would treat somebody from Texas. And by that I mean that if you take someone from New York City, he may not know how to swim or shoot a gun. Someone from Texas you would think that they would know, and most of them did, but we put them all the same pot. So if a guy couldn't swim, you'd throw him in the water and training and say either swim or drown type of deal. So we really put in remedial programs that say look, if you already know that people can't swim or can't shoot, why do you want to embarrass them? Why don't we just give them a leg up on it? And so I did that for him for a while, and I went down and I took over one of the series they had in I think it was Bravo Company. It was a captain's billet, I was still just a lieutenant at the time, but I did that, and then I would take off every day and go over to the baseball field in the early afternoons. They also had lights there at San Diego, so we also had night baseball, so a lot of our games were played at night.

*Where was your home field in San Diego?*

**Doyle Stout:** On the depot.

*Right on the depot, OK, sure. I graduated from MCRD San Diego in '97, and I guess the field is probably gone. I don't remember seeing it.*

**Doyle Stout:** Oh boy, it might be, yeah. The one they had then had been there quite a while and was actually a very nice field. But because San Diego grew so fast, there was no place for people to live, so the recruits and so forth are not allowed to go to games, so you really ended up with a field that the people that lived around the area, if they wanted to fight the traffic they

could come in to the game. But we had pretty good crowds. Not as good as Quantico. Quantico was much, much better, but San Diego was good, and a great experience.

*To me it's just a fascinating story, myself being a baseball fan and also a Marine that you had that connection through baseball and into the Marine Corps and were able to keep playing baseball in the Marine Corps which I think when you were playing at that time, it sounds like it was really quite a big thing, and I didn't realize all the travel that you did and the teams that you played against.*

**Doyle Stout:** I really did change, James, because when I first went into the Marines, the reason I went in, one of the reasons was that the people that would come by trying to get you to go into the Marines would go to the athletic dorms first. They would talk to the athletes, and I used to ask the guy, I said why do you go to the athletic departments first? He said because that's the kind of people that we want in the Marines, people that are in good shape that are in positions of making decisions and things of that sort. So I didn't really have a choice on that. But once I went in and started playing baseball, but it got even better. When I was a company commander when I was in Okinawa, I also played baseball, and they had then, and in those days sports were really big whether it was football, basketball or baseball, the Marines had a name of having whatever they had, whichever sport you were in, the object was to win. So the commands really put on and put the pressure on to get the best athletes they could, in order to do that. But when I was in Okinawa, they also still had, each of the regiments had teams. In fact, we had 12 different teams there including Air Force, Navy, Army and so forth, and I was selected as the, I was a baseball commissioner of the Ryukan Island chain of those 12 teams, but I was also the head coach of the Marine teams. We had three Marine teams that played. So I did that for a year or so. But again, it was the same thing. I had a full time job, but then I'd have to come over and play baseball. But when you don't have your family there and so forth, it worked out very well. And that was the end of my career when I stopped playing in Okinawa. That was probably about 1963 or so. That's really the last time that I played in organized baseball.

*And from then it was just kind of full time, your Marine Corps duties.*

**Doyle Stout:** And after that, they just like the Marines do, they send you around to get shot at and then when you're not getting shot at, they put you in another job. My secondary of MOS's was I was Indian intelligence officer, and I spent considerable time in that business. I also was a nuclear warfare officer, NBC planner for the Marines.

*Did you spend any time in Vietnam at all?*

**Doyle Stout:** I did, I spent two or three years in Vietnam as a Marine advisor. I speak Vietnamese. I initially started with a battalion as a very young major where in those days, Vietnamese Marine battalion would be about 500-600 Vietnamese Marines and there would be one advisor and that was me. But based on where you were going, you would sometimes be, they would attach people that would allow you to handle some of the artillery and so forth. But I did that and I worked at Mike V headquarters and worked on some special assignments over there, intelligence assignments for General Abrams, and that assignment led to our ability to go into Cambodia. Before that we were not allowed to attack across a border, but after a very good program, it took us about six or eight months to do it, but we approved and got approval from the President to be able to go across into Cambodia. So I spent 12 years in Vietnam.

*Yes sir. How was it you learned to speak Vietnamese? Were you picked for language aptitude, or did you just pick it up yourself while you were there?*

**Doyle Stout:** No, I think it was just self survival. No one spoke English with the Vietnamese, so either you speak Vietnamese or you don't. So I had a crash course and it's like everything else, if you don't have a choice, you can learn it pretty quickly, and I did.

*While you were there, you were married and you had all of your children born at that point? Or you had one son?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yes, they were all born and my wife was from Van Horn, Texas, which was not too far from Alpine, and normally when I would go overseas, she would go back and just stay in Van Horn in a house that we had there, and so two of my three sons were born in Alpine, and one was born at Quantico.

*Were you children old enough to remember you being gone in Vietnam, or were they too young to really know where you were or what was going on?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, I think they knew where I was. They were at that point in time old enough to understand that father wasn't there. They were not babies, that's for sure.

*I know that's one of the things that is talked a lot about is the troops that serve in combat are in harm's way, but we often kind of forget about the families that are back home. How did they cope with you being in a war zone, or did you ever talk to them about that?*

**Doyle Stout:** I think they did very well. First of all, I had three boys and the first two boys were only 15 months apart, and the other one was only a year and a half or so less, so for the most part they were sort of grouped and were good friends. And my eldest son is also a fantastic leader, and so even if I was not there, he kind of took charge and did a wonderful job, and they've all done very well, all have good degrees, good jobs, and so forth.

*That's great. I know sir, going back to the book, there's one story your son writes about how you, actually I guess your family dog alerted you and then you were able to save your son out of a well, which from my reading it sounded kind of similar to the Jessica McClure in Midland where she fell down a well. Could you maybe tell us a little bit about that because that's kind of an amazing story.*

**Doyle Stout:** I was at the time we were living at Camp Pendleton, California, and I was with I think it was the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, or it might have been the 1<sup>st</sup> there, but anyway, I was in one of the battalions and we lived on base, and just outside of where we live in Dwyer Mount and I know Marines will remember that place, a lot of the training areas were around that. So there's a lot of Marines running up and down and a lot of hills, and not a whole bunch of foliage of any sort, but I had the three boys and I had a big German shepherd dog that had been given to me by my roommate at Saul Ross. He played with the New York Yankees. His name was Ivan Ogramowitz. Ivan was a pitcher for the Yankees and the year that he finally made it up to the Yankees, his back went on him and he ended his career. But he went on and got a chemistry degree at \_\_\_\_\_. But anyhow, Ivan had given us his German shepherd dog and we had it there at Dwyer Mountain in one of those small houses provided to the military. I came home one evening and I couldn't find my, and my wife said she couldn't find DJ, our eldest son, and it was starting to get dark, and we looked and we couldn't find him. We asked neighbors to help. I



called the police and the fire department. We had everyone out looking for him. It got dark, and luckily there was a big moon up on the hill, and as I looked on up about 200 or 300 yards away, there was a hill and the moon was sort of behind the hill and I could see my dog. I called the dog. His name was Jupiter. I called Jupiter and he refused to come. So I got mad like the good old Marines do, and I just had to go get that dog, and I did. The dog just would not move at all. When I finally got to the dog and I looked down and here's a pipe that was below the surface of the ground so that you couldn't see it unless you were right on top of it, and my son, Doyle Junior who must've been about 6, I don't know, 6 or 7 I guess, had crawled into the pipe and his arms were caught below him so that he couldn't get out. If it had not been for the dog, I guarantee you, we would not have found him because he just, you could've walked right over the location. But I pulled him out by his head, nearly broke his neck, and he got out and he loves to tell that story, but he was a lucky young man. And we were lucky to have that dog.

*Yeah, you hear stories of dogs saving people's lives, but that one is just amazing. I thought that was quite a great story so I wanted to ask you about that. I know sir, too, I'm kind of jumping around here, but I know there was a lot of other really neat anecdotes in that book about your time out in Alpine, and I was wondering if you could share with us the time that you spent with James Dean, which I thought was kind of a neat little story.*

**Doyle Stout:** The big movie, The Giant, was made in Marfa, Texas, which is only about 25 miles from Alpine, and in that movie was of course Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean, and Rock Hudson and so forth, so the people that had our baseball team also spent some time over in Marfa. In fact, Marfa used to have a team that they used to play many years ago. So they received an invitation to go to where they were filming The Giant, so we went over as a team with our wives and families, those that had them, and visited. And while I was there, I had a chance to meet James Dean, and he was really something else, really very unusual type of fellow. But anyhow, we were talking and he asked me whether or no, he said what do you guys do for fun at night and so forth? I said well, I go rabbit hunting. He said rabbit hunting? And he said how do you do that? And I just said well, I have an old Ford. I had a '36 Ford that one door wouldn't open, the other door wouldn't close. I paid \$30 for it, and that was my rabbit hunting. So West Texas there, you can, it's like riding on highways if you can get around the mesquite bushes and the cactus and so forth, and they've got some of the world's biggest jackrabbits. I mean they are really huge. And so we would go out and one guy would sit on the fender with a baseball bat and one would drive, and we would go out and try to find rabbits. James Dean thought that really sounded fun, and he asked if he could do it, and he evidently got permission and I picked him up and we did it. And he was just crazy. West Texas is a lot of wide open space, but boy, you could hear him for miles yelling and cursing. I gave him a good bat, a 36" bat, it was a long bat. But he would never make it as a baseball player. He didn't get one single rabbit, but he didn't care. That was the most fun he said that he had ever had in his life, and when I took him back and the people there weren't very happy about their star being over here where I almost ran over him. I thought he was going to fall off of the bumper.

*I guess you would drive quickly and try to outrun the rabbits and be able to hit them with a bat while they were running?*

**Doyle Stout:** You know, the rabbits, they can really move out, and yeah. Like dogfighting I guess.

*That's quite an interesting story. And I guess it wasn't that much longer after that that he died himself in a car wreck.*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, I think within a few months. He had gone back to California and I had read that he just opened up his sports car and I guess deliberately did whatever he was doing. It's too bad, but he was surely a mixed up individual.

*You could kind of I guess tell that just from the time you spent with him?*

**Doyle Stout:** Oh yeah, he was very strange, yes.

*And then another person I want to ask you about that a lot of baseball people know is Norm Cash, the great baseball player with the Tigers. Tell us a little bit about your relationship with Norm Cash.*

**Doyle Stout:** Well Norm, he came to Saul Ross on a football scholarship. He was a very good football player, and he said he had played some baseball, so he came out and wanted to play on the university team, and he made the team, and not only did he make the team, but Mr. Kokernot saw him play and put him on the Cowboy team. So he played with us for a couple of years before he decided to turn professional, and he did very well as you know, winning the American League batting title. He was a very good, natural athlete. He batted left-handed, he threw right-handed, but he is also a fun guy. I think he was from Post, Texas, a small town not too far away, and he had a girlfriend in Dallas, and he and I became very good friends because whenever I would make a trip back to Dallas, he would normally catch a ride with me, and we've had really good experiences on that where one evening he said he knew where his girlfriend lived, we got there at 2 o'clock in the morning, and you know how these areas are in Dallas. All the homes look the same. So he went to about four or five different houses, ringing the bell.

*At 2 o'clock in the morning?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, he didn't have the number. So somebody called the police and pretty soon we had police and everybody out there, and took us about an hour before the police finally let us be and finally found the house. I told him did it ever occur to you that you might want to get the address? And he said no, I know the house, I've been there before. Well that's Norm Cash.

*Wow. And then I think you mentioned to me in one of your emails when you were in the Marine Corps in Okinawa, he was on a major league post-season all star tour over there? Is that right? Did you get to see him again?*

**Doyle Stout:** What they do is they take teams from the U.S. One goes over I think every year and they play the Japanese circuit, and part of Japan of course was the Okinawa thing. At the time that I was in Okinawa playing baseball and also as the head of the baseball dynasty there if you would, the Detroit Tigers are the ones that went in to Japan and they not only went to Japan, but they also came down through Okinawa, and so my boss then was General Buse, General Heavy Henry Buse was the commanding general of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, and so he told me to get up to Japan. I was going to be the official guide of the Detroit Tigers to bring them into Okinawa and this kind of stuff, which I did. We brought 'em down and they played games with some of our teams and so forth. I had a wonderful opportunity to see him again, of course. I hadn't seen him for years, but we were pretty close, and Al Kaline, a lot of the great names that Detroit had.

*Wow, it also felt like a bit of a small world to be in the Marine Corps -*

**Doyle Stout:** It really is, isn't it, you're right.

*Playing ball together in the small town of Alpine.*

**Doyle Stout:** You're right, it is a very small world, but it was a very good experience and this was just before also he retired not too much longer after that and went into baseball broadcasting, and went to a party one night on one of the big boats over there and he stepped off the back of the boat and drowned.

*Yeah, I remember reading about that. He was up at Beaver Island, Michigan, and drowned. Yeah, tragic, yes sir. Well then sir, after you left the Marine Corps, I guess you still do the same thing you were doing in the Marines as in the Philippines now, is that right, doing technology type work?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, I've been building systems. I've been working for a lot of different companies. I worked with FMC corporation for a while and did almost all of their work including the Bradley's and amphibious vehicles and the Navy systems. I also worked as the President of New York Telephone for Asia, Nynex, and the telecom business. I've lived in every country in Asia. I've lived 10 years in Singapore. I've been in Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, China, and Japan, South Korea, and I've now been almost 20 years in the Philippines. I've been here twice with the Philippines. One of my jobs was in the Marine Corps I was assigned to the American Embassy, but I was also assigned to Jusmag Philippines, and I was a Marine advisor, so I spent three very good years with my Philippine Marines, and they are very, very fine, fine Marines. I stayed with them and worked with them and trained with them and advised them, just the same way I did with the Vietnamese troops.

*Do you get back home to Texas very often?*

**Doyle Stout:** I just came back from Texas, first time I've been there in three years. I normally try to go back once a year if I can, but it just depends on the business. I have businesses here that are basically one is an energy and another is in computer technology. We do a lot of software. I do most of the golf courses. We do hospitals, things of that sort, so I'm not retired. I still work 7 days a week, and I love it.

*Probably help keep you young, I would guess is what I've always been told, to be active, involved.*

**Doyle Stout:** So that and golf. I play a lot of golf.

*And let me ask you, too, sir, I know one of the things that really struck me about the book your son wrote was kind of the theme that baseball and Herbert Kokernot, Jr. in particular kind of helped shape your life and the direction it went, and it helped create the lives that your children have today and that sort of thing. Do you feel that way as well?*

**Doyle Stout:** Oh yeah, without a doubt the biggest, probably the most prominent event of my life was the fact that baseball, then that's sort of what my son was writing in the book, the fact that I could throw a baseball and throw it pretty well was noticed. It opened the door which I took, and that was one to education that would not have been available to me in that my family situation was such that they had had not anyone from that family had gone on to universities at all. They thought that I was a black sheep by going to universities. No one even tried to

understand the fact that the education was so necessary. Mr. Kokernot through his baseball and the scholarship opened that door for me, and I never looked back because I was a good student, I did well and I loved it. I tried to make the most of that opportunity. That's why I continued going to school. So it definitely turned my life around. All of my children, I have actually six children. I have five boys and one girl, and three of my children are adopted children, Pilipino children, and all of them I got when they were young but I have now put them all through school. They are all at universities. Most of them are engineers or have other kind of jobs, but all six of the children now have completed university degrees and have good jobs. So yeah, I think the baseball opened that door to me and made me convinced that if you want people to succeed, you have to give them an opportunity.

*Well, it's a fascinating story and I really appreciate you taking some time out of your schedule to share that with us. The Land Office is the oldest state agency in Texas and we have the Veterans Land Board which does a lot to help veterans, but we also have a lot of the archives here. We have documents that go back to Spanish Land Grant days. We have the original land grant that David Crockett's widow received after he was killed at the Alamo. We have Stephen F. Austin's original Registro that he kept in his own hand of all the original settlers that came to Texas and so our goal with this program is to take all of these interviews and add them to the archives so that potentially 100, 200, however many hundreds of years from now, hopefully people can listen to these interviews and in each case get a little snapshot of individual experiences that veterans have had through the years, through the different services and different conflicts and that sort of thing, and so we appreciate -*

**Doyle Stout:** Well that would be wonderful. You might have something, I'm also the head of the American Historical Collection here. It's the one that captures everything from 1898 through now. The American Embassy had it for many years, but that was turned over and we now have a very big facility where we have also a very large number of the original documents, photos, thousands and thousands of photos, tapes and archives, the thing that you have here, that principally covers the World War II period, but it also covers before that, including the Spanish documents. So if that would ever be of any help to you and your people there, we could also help you do some research on that.

*Yes sir, yeah, our focus is really Texas veterans and any of their experiences, and they don't necessarily have to have been from Texas originally, just have a connection to Texas now in some capacity. But I guess one last question I want to ask you, sir, before we go, is I think you mentioned, because the book is such a great, I think is a great book and is really a great story about your life and your connection to that team. I think you mentioned there's the possibility that HBO is looking at making a movie. Have you heard any further about that?*

**Doyle Stout:** Yeah, I think, I was contacted previously by some people from the Hollywood scene type thing, and we were talking about that and there's been some interest. I don't know if they've been back to my son yet or not, but if you take a look at that story, it has all the of the ingredients of an HBO type story. And it's just ideal, and I think that someone will pick up on that and probably pretty soon and they'll be able to weave just a fantastic story. It's all about families, about sports, about a small town, about a benevolent owner, a mixture of ball players from all over the world competing just for the sake of, love of baseball, so I think it would be a nice story. So my prediction is yes, that within a few years, you're gonna see probably an HBO out of that story.

*I think that would be outstanding because it really is a great story and we're glad that we were able to get a little bit of the story directly from you as kind of one of the subjects of the story. So sir, again, thank you very much for your time, but also more importantly for your service to our country, all those years in the Marine Corps. Once a Marine, always a Marine, and I want to thank you as well on behalf of Commissioner Jerry Patterson. He's a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel as well, and myself and a lot of other folks here are Marine veterans, but even the folks here that aren't veterans appreciate what you and your fellow veterans have done for this country. So this program is just one small way of saying thank you.*

**Doyle Stout:** Well, that's very fine, thank you James, it's been a great pleasure to talk to you. I hope to have a chance to personally meet you one of these days.

*Yes sir, and in about a couple of weeks we'll be sending to your son, we'll send him copies of the CD of this interview as well as a nice letter and certificate from the Commissioner. So thank you very much sir.*

**Doyle Stout:** You bet, my pleasure.

*[End of recording]*